

## RESTRICTED

NELL, EDWARD R. \_\_\_\_\_ Capt. \_\_\_\_\_ ASN 0-366913  
 (Rank)  
 after being duly sworn at \_\_\_\_\_ 22nd Replacement Depot, Luzon. P.I.  
 on \_\_\_\_\_ 17 September, \_\_\_\_\_ 1945, testified as follows:

Q. How old are you?

A. 37

Q. Were you captured by the Japanese or made a prisoner of war, and if so, when and where?

A. Yes at Kilometer post 184.5 Bataan, 11 Ap 42.

Q. What was your unit at the time of your capture?

A. 57th Inf (P.S)

Q. By what Japanese unit were you captured?

A. Jap infantry.

Q. Do you expect to be repatriated, and if so, to what country?

A. United States.

Q. What will your complete address be after your repatriation?

A. 328 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo, Mich.

Q. Will you state the names and locations of the camps at which you were held as a prisoner of war and the dates you were confined at each camp?

Compound or Camp	Location	Dates
A. Death March	Mariveles	4 Apr 42 - 23 Apr 42
O'Donnell	P.I.	24 Apr 42 - Oct 42
Cabanatuan	P.I.	Oct 42 - Nov 42
Imeda	Osaka	Nov 42 - May 45
Tsuruga	Japan	May 45 - Sept 45

Q. Do you know or have you reason to believe that the Imperial Japanese Forces failed to treat prisoners of war with humanity or otherwise committed atrocities or war crimes against them?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you state all facts in detail pertaining to atrocities, war crimes, violations of Rules of Land Warfare and human decency at Transportation, the dates thereof, the perpetrators, giving their (camp or other place) names, ranks, units and other identifying information.

A. On 7 Nov 1942 I sailed from Pier 7, Manila with 1650 POW and 1500 to 2000 Japanese soldiers. We were on Nagato Maru, a Japanese freighter of approx. 4 or 5000 tons. The POW were on the bottom deck of each of the 3 holds. We were extremely crowded, most had standing room only. The Jap soldiers occupied the upper decks in each hold. The Americans were not allowed on deck for two days after we sailed. The air was foul, many lost consciousness. We had one canteen cup of water per day per man. The morning meal was about 200 grams of rice and a soup of fermented bean past. The evening meal was about the same amount of rice and a small quantity of fish, about 20 grams.

We received no medicine for the sick at all. Most men who were ill were suffering from illness caused by deficient diet, diarrhea, beri-beri, protein edema and malaria. Beginning about 9 Nov approx. 40 men from each hold were allowed on deck for periods of an hour. There were latrines on deck but the men with bowel disorder often were unable to get to the deck. For 3 days there was no sanitary facilities below decks but then we stole some buckets which we were able to empty. There was some mistreatment of POW in the after hold as kicking and beating men when the Japs were going after supplies that were stored there.

Beginning Nov 9 they allowed me to bring the severely sick on deck to an improvised sick bay. I repeatedly requested medicine from Lt. Murata and Sgt. Iwashino. Both Jap Army medical men. I don't know their first names. They never supplied any medicine. These two Japs had no outstanding characteristics. I'm not sure I could identify them now. On about 12 Nov the convoy we were in was fired on by a submarine. Our ship was not hit. There were no distinguishing markings on our ship.

The extreme physical discomfort of the men caused a complete breakdown of morals; they snarled at each other, quarreled and insulted officers for no reason. Hunger was so extreme that they asked for the left overs of the Japanese meals. We arrived at Moji 25 Nov 1942.

The following men died at sea as a result of the combination of factors prevalent on the ship. All were able bodied when we got on the ship.

Wood, William R O-361066, 1st Lt. 24th FA  
Died 11/7/42 Born 6/3/15 Cause of death beri-beri myocarditis.  
Danea, Richard R. O-403705, 2nd Lt. 192 Tank Bn  
Died 11/13/42. He was born 10/23/16 Cause of death starvation and generalized sepsis  
Truesdell, Willard M O-183609, Maj. Inf  
Died 11/17/42 Cause of death starvation and generalized sepsis  
Linke, Harold F. 290050 Pfc, 4th U.S.N.C.  
Died 11/19/42 Chronic Diarrhea  
Free, Edward G. 31430 Pfc, 2th USMC  
Died 11/21/42 cause chronic diarrhea, and pellagra.  
Keough, Harry 3248000 Chief Water Tender, UNS  
Died 11/21/42 cause chronic diarrhea and pellagra.  
Howard, Thomas O, 6839506 T/Sgt, 60th CA (AA)  
Died 11/23/42 cause beri beri myocarditis.  
Johnson, Albert L., O-80338, 2nd Lt US Engineer Corps  
Died 11/24/42 starvation and chronic diarrhea.

When we arrived at Moji the temperature was about 45 degrees F with a high wind. We were made to line up naked on deck before all the people on the dock while the Japanese took a specimen from each rectum. This exposure to public gazes was unwarranted.

I am a medical officer and the diagnosis of the illness and causes of death are correct to the best of my knowledge without benefit clinical or laboratory assistance.

(S) EDWARD R. NEIL  
Capt. Med. Corps, USA.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of September, 1945.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:  
/s/ Charles H. Sullivan  
Capt. C.M.P.

(S) JOSEPH E. TINKHAM  
1st Lt. JAGD

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:  
Everett Checket  
Everett Checket  
1st Lt. Infantry

RESTRICTED